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[*Reprinted*]

DOCTOR D.

PRESCRIBES FOR ANAEMIC PARTIES

From the Old Armchair,
The Editor's Office,
March, 1928.

THIS month I have a new patient, though he suffers from a very old disease. The consultation is forced on me by a letter which reads: It is all very well for you to say do this, or that, or tell us this ought to be done, or something else, but you are referring to live Labour Parties—Parties that have got some "go" in them. But what about our place? Can you tell me how to get rid of apathy? We have got an apathetic Party and an apathetic electorate. Everything we try fails and nobody seems to care. Nobody wants to move, and we are just stuck where we were six years ago. Backward areas indeed; come and try our job in a "forward" area—and so on for three more sheets. But, thanks, I've enough already to make a diagnosis.

A Diagnosis.

But the disease *isn't* apathy, my patient. Apathy is a symptom, not a disease. It is like that dirty tongue in the morning and the want of appetite for breakfast. *Something else* is out of order and if you'll read on I will describe other symptoms. This apathy, this "listlessness," in the Party is accompanied by "depression," is it not? —your letter shows it. The Party has "that tired feeling," a certain "peevishness" (again your letter shows it), "sluggishness" and "want of appetite"? Obviously, too, "digestion" is bad; there is "general weakness," "loss of vitality," "anæmia," and *want of the rich red corpuscles.* Your poor listless body cries out in envy of the pulsing life you see throbbing through other local Parties and making them efficient, purposeful and victorious?

Can *I* cure? Certainly not. But the cure is in *your* hands. Let me explain.

Once, a man I know went to the doctor. Never mind what his complaints were. You are morbid enough already. This man wanted drugs, drugs to take away his distressing symptoms. But the doctor was a wise physician. Alter your habits, proclaimed he, the cure lies with you, not me. And the man altered his habits. He was cured. So I merely imitate the wise physician. After all, friend, the future and the present is brighter than you think it; the great world is not apathetic or unmindful of Labour's purposes; the lure of victory is in the air for all who care to feel it. The bonds that bind you, the heaviness that sits on you, the indifference of the world, are all nothing more than flickering fancies out of the gloom your dying fires now fail to penetrate. The sickness you call apathy is something that is in you, and in your Party. To be cured, you must seek the fault that is yours.

The Prescription.

But you contend you have done your best. You have tried this and tried that; like the man who resorts to quack remedies when what he wants is fresh blood and purer living. Your Party wants fresh blood. Indeed that is just the one sovereign remedy for apathy, listlessness, depression, anaemia and all the other pretty complaints from which "apathetic" Parties suffer. Write it in big letters, FRESH BLOOD, FRESH BLOOD—that of the rich red corpuscles. This is *the* cure.

Now please don't run away with the idea that I want you and your Party, or what you call a Party, to throw up the sponge, and stand aside for others to come forward. No, but I advise you to earnestly and methodically seek new recruits for your Party, and *let them work.*

But you say you have tried this and they won't come in. But has your Party really tried, and at the same time altered its habits—as the doctor advised?

Art Thou Weary?

Now I do know Parties who have succeeded in enrolling quite a lot of new blood, but they have poisoned it (to pursue my simile) almost before it reached the body. How many "apathetic" Parties function through a little band of dog-tired Socialists, too old and wearied for a real fight, and with men and women whose minds are soured by hope deferred and whose souls find comfort and conviviality in a caucus which they call a Party? It is not that they are wilfully exclusive and elect, so much as that they have never quite grasped the bigger aspects of Party: the ideas of mass membership and really democratic management and control.

FOLLOWING OUR USUAL PRACTICE OUR AUGUST ISSUE IS GIVEN OVER MAINLY TO REPRINTS OF USEFUL ARTICLES WHICH APPEARED IN EARLIER ISSUES. OUR READERS HAVE ALWAYS APPROVED OF THIS COURSE AND WE TRUST THAT OUR PRESENT SELECTION MEETS WITH EQUAL SATISFACTION.

There are minds that have never moved from the outlook of the old pioneer days—men who count as one of six, but who have never thought of themselves as one of six hundred or six thousand. The atmosphere that surrounds them is one of possession. No wonder the raw recruit recoils. And though I love and revere the old guard, I don't like the conceit and conservatism of some of them. "Who built the movement?" is a question akin to "who won the war?" It is not good that any should desire a special halo because they "joined" quite long ago.

But it is this very class which sometimes is so obstructive of new purpose, and new ideas. I could give you, though it is not wisdom to do it here, a really surprising list of places where from one cause and another affairs have in time got into the hands of an old guard. And the old guard, of course, knows all about organisation. Their past failures have, however, taught them nothing. To all and sundry they explain that their failures are due to the peculiar difficulties of their own locality; "there never was another place like it"—of course, to them. And learn a lesson from outside? Not likely; they are too much like the dear old lady who knew how to bring up children, for hadn't she had sixteen and buried twelve of them?

Art Thou Languid?

But why jibe at these stick-in-the-muds? Because I have a lasting feud with the Dismal Jimmies of our movement who breed and blossom with luxuriance in the stagnant backwaters of stand-still Labour Parties. Dismal Jimmies and the ancient mariners of our movement ofttimes have an affinity one to another. Joined hand to hand they block the way.

FRESH BLOOD. It is strange how some of our old comrades dislike the thought of fresh jowls sitting in their places, directing and doing what they so long have done. Perhaps the feeling is natural. Its like is traceable all through nature, and we, most of us, give up the joys of life, one by one, to the younger hands, very reluctantly. But there is no gainsaying the fact that in our movement it is very often this same hanging-on and dog-in-the-manger attitude that stultifies progress. The outlook isn't big enough, the new blood isn't so welcome, and the local Party presently only reflects the minds

of its older members. The elect are in possession, and because they don't see the mote that is in their own eye, all their endeavours to move, or to get on, are doomed to failure.

But of course railing at this problem will not alone alter things. There is the apathetic Party to whom my accusations do not apply at all. There is the Party that stands still, merely because they *don't know* how to progress. There is the Party that has had a serious setback in one direction or another and only the faithful remain in the ship. And there is the Party in the desperately difficult area where few are found to do the work, and those few, like lone sheep on the wold, incline to huddle together for warmth and comradeship.

But in every instance the one evil is there (i.e., that the Party gets into too few hands); and the one cure prescribed is the only cure. NEW BLOOD.

And how to get it? Perhaps I can illustrate.

Sore Distressed.

Some time ago I had a Local Party to deal with who were fast in the doldrums. There had once been bright prospects and fair progress; but disagreements had arisen and though there was still a fair membership things were stagnating. Meetings were failures. The fixed dates for meetings as given on members' cards had not been adhered to through lack of attenddances, and all sorts of dates and times had been tried still with no effect beyond securing the irregular attendance of not more than a dozen people. And the meetings, starting invariably over half-an-hour late, were disagreeable functions, at which the Chairman behaved eccentrically and the members let themselves go in hot denunciation of the absent slackers. Finance was low, by which I mean the Party was heavily in debt. The Secretary functioned half-heartedly and he was the only officer except the exotic Chairman who functioned at all. Altogether a *very* bad patch.

The "general meeting," which I attended, started forty minutes late with seven persons present besides myself out of over a hundred reputed members. Naturally I spoke briefly and then I let the comrades have a go. The Chairman started working overtime for twenty minutes, pumping pessimism by the bucketful. After him the deluge. Member after member—the whole half-a-dozen of them—rose to declare his faith in failure. It was utter. It was abject. What was the good of trying? They had tried; it was no good. What could one do with people who wouldn't be *dragged* to meetings? (I suppose they had tried this method!) What about people who would promise and wouldn't turn up? Had I seen the figure for the football gates last Saturday?—that's what the present ignorant generation preferred. What was the National Labour Party doing that they didn't send leaders to their town to stir them up? What about it if our own members attended Liberal dances and Tory soirees? And as I had suggested more propaganda, could I get the National Labour Party to pay for it? Altogether what was the good of anything? And the meeting unanimously supplied the answer—Nothing!

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And the Rest.

And so we got to grips. My seven pessimists reminded me strongly of a chapter in the Book of Revelation and of "a book written within, and on the backside, sealed with seven seals . . . and I wept much because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon." And so it was. These seven seals would never in their present minds redeem their Party. The task was beyond them.

But after much persuasion I got six of them to agree to deliver a personal invitation from me to another meeting addressed to all the absent members—over 100. I got a guarantee of personal delivery, and each of the six took 20 circulars.

Well, we got that next meeting and twenty-eight people turned up, rather more promptly to time. There was a much better feeling, and the pessimists were tamer, but could I summon the meeting *every* time? Of course I couldn't, but here comes the real lesson. Eleven people in that room promised to personally visit and canvass six past members each, prior to the next meeting. And at the next meeting, which I also attended, fourteen new members were announced. The attendance was forty-two. Three of the seven seals were absent, including the Chairman, and four of them had repented, or rather what was more likely, the atmosphere had changed their spirit. Anyway the meeting was in fine fettle. "Let bygones be bygones" was the watchword of the evening and a new canvass on the same lines was arranged in which over twenty persons promised to take part. That Division is to-day doing famously.

So it comes to this. "New blood" is almost certainly the cure for Party ailments. But it must be sought for, and sought for methodically. It is there for the asking, and will come in if invited. Of course, all Parties' circumstances are not alike, but the principle on which the remedy should be applied is the same. No matter what caused your apathy, if just a few persons (in my illustration only half-a-dozen) will canvass just a small number of persons *there will be some result.* And if the experiment be repeated there will be a proportionately better result. The activity will lift the Party out of its rut, and the consistency of the plan makes it such that it cannot fail.

"Backwards! Face Frontwards!"

But you say ours is a "backward area." Heaven save the man who invented that term. Wasn't all Britain a backward area when Keir Hardie and the others first struck out for Socialism? A "backward area" is a mental reflex of the man who calls it so. Let us look at the facts. At the last General Election Labour polled 5,487,620 out of a total vote cast amounting to 16,120,735, or out of a total electorate of 20,523,457. So that on the worst possible showing there is an average throughout the country of at least one Labour elector for every four others—really the proportion is almost exactly one in three.

[The figures given are those applicable at time this article first appeared. —Ed. "L.O."]

Is it conceivable that with such an abundant harvest already polled new blood cannot be obtained for Party membership in any part of the country?

And taking even the least fruitful soil of all—the few places where Labour actually lost its deposit money owing to its failure to poll one-eighth of the vote cast—in practically no place was the vote less than one in ten. Labour's voters, then, are from one in ten to even six or seven in ten, taking the country throughout. He will be a Dismal Jimmie indeed who, in the face of that fact, will try to prove that consistent tapping and canvassing will not produce the new blood that is needed in his Local Party.

But let me stress the fact that "little by little" will do it. If six people will canvass six voters in one week, it means 72 invitations in a fortnight. The law of averages will see to it that a fair proportion of these will be Labour voters—at least one-tenth of them, quite possibly several times more. But if twelve people engaged in the effort or if the plan is carried on for a month, the number tapped is doubled. Better still, let members promise to canvass six voters a week for two or three months. It is surprising how the total canvassed mounts up. Anyway, new blood *cannot fail to be found.* Some proportion of Labour voters will definitely join.

Adopt then some similar plan, bring the members into the meetings, and with Galileo we shall realise that after all it moves. This is *my* plan for the Abolition of Apathy. Are you the Dismal Jimmie who echoes "can't"?

PARTY PROGRESS IN PROPAGANDA

Party Propaganda is moving. The extraordinary energy which has been put into the Department during the past year is, we believe, bearing fruit in the country.

During the past season at least 44 Agricultural Conferences have been held and some others are in preparation.

The Summer Rural Campaign had, up to the end of July, covered 20 constituencies and some 20 odd constituencies are yet to be covered.

The number of meetings held in the constituencies have run from 10 to 40 per constituency and some splendid sales of literature have been reported.

Four loud speaker vans have been lent to the Divisions taking part in the Campaign, additional to which, of course, local loud speaker equipment has been used.

We are interested to note that many expressions of appreciation has been received for the work of the drivers of the vans, namely, Messrs. Chipperfield, Tweed and Meadows.

The Rural Campaign has also covered a number of other constituencies by supplying speakers, etc., and the number of meetings per constituency in this case has ranged from six to 63.

The above figures do not include those of the Rural Campaign in Scotland where, in one constituency, 76 meetings were held, and 2,204 copies of "Your Britain" were sold. Good Propaganda.

Readers will be interested to know that the Bristol and District Association, which has its own loud speaker equipment, has additionally fixed up a big and varied Propaganda Campaign.

The Clarion Youth Campaign which has been distinct from, and in co-operation with, Headquarters has been responsible for a series of Campaigns in about 25 constituencies, and this excellent work is still continuing.

The above brief résumé makes no mention of the various National Demonstrations which have been part of the Party's Propaganda, nor of the several week-end schools and numerous educational classes which have been arranged.

There have also been special Campaigns, such as "Food and Farming" Campaign and the "Youth Campaign," while the Municipal Campaign is now taking shape.

The Department and its officers are to be heartily congratulated on their work, but it would be unfair not to include in this review a mention of the unstinted efforts of the Party Propagandists, who have been Mrs. K. Bruce Glasier (now retired) and Messrs. Jim Simmons, O. G. Willey and A. W. Haycock. Greetings and thanks to these stout fellows.

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SPECIAL ATTENTION TO LITERATURE

By Maurice Hackett

A GOOD EXAMPLE.

News reaches us of a very interesting Divisional Conference conducted by our Macclesfield friends. A special conference was called to discuss the propaganda problem in that division, with special attention to Literature.

A widespread invitation to attend was given to all members and affiliated groups and the Parliamentary Candidate, Councillors, D.L.P. Officers attended, including the Divisional and Local Parties Literature Secretaries.

We urge the holding of similar conferences in all divisions. The main job of work for at least 75% of parties is propaganda, the spreading of the message, not to hundreds of electors but to tens of thousands. The very essence of good propaganda work is that the message of our party should reach the electors *month after month*, and that there shall be a constant reminder that the Labour Party exists, that it has a plan and that we are on the job.

One important advantage of a divisional conference on these lines, is that the individual member becomes interested in propaganda, makes suggestions, offers help and feels some personal responsibility to carry out decisions made at such a conference.

Too often we fail to realise that most decisions concerning campaigns, etc., come down by easy stages from a divisional executive to the rank and file worker who is continually being asked to do ordinary rather wearying tasks without taking part in the discussions or decisions concerning the work.

This is inevitable to a degree, with the political machinery we have to maintain, but once in six or twelve months, a divisional conference, with a personal invitation to every member to come along and discuss the future work, or take part in drawing up a six or twelve months plan of propaganda will create greater interest and enthusiasm in the rank and file.

The immediate result of the Macclesfield Conference is a scheme of regular monthly distribution of leaflets starting with 4,000 per month and building up, a regular show of 50 new posters each month, displayed on the premises of members who have volunteered to display them, and a specially organised sales drive with Your Britain No. 3.

The writer will be pleased to attend any divisional conference on Propaganda, Publicity and Literature and give what advice he can on local and national propaganda problem.

* * *

A new experiment in poster production for the Party is the issue of three attractive letterpress posters in black, white and green, size 10ins. x 20ins. These should be useful for flyposting in well-chosen spots along country roads, and the size and type of the poster is such that amenities will not be disturbed. We hope our county divisions will make full use of them and let Head Office know how practical they are compared with the usual double crown poster. Prices are 12 copies 9d.; 50 copies 2/6; 100 copies 4/-.

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Election Preparation Series

DEPARTMENTS AT AN ELECTION

[*Reprinted*]

An election agent in the Labour Party can rarely employ an experienced staff, and probably in addition to the election agent's functions he has the responsibility of raising funds. In any case he is almost always more hard-worked than his Liberal and Tory opponents.

Classifying the Work.

Because of this it is essential that the agent should seek to simplify and, if possible, departmentalise the work.

In the hurly-burly of the election it is quite possible for some of the agent's functions to be overlooked. The pressing job of the moment may account for certain other work not being done or being scamped. A clear understanding, therefore, of all sides of an agent's duties should be obtained beforehand and it is as well to chart out the various headings into which the agent's duties may be divided.

These duties may very conveniently be classified under seven headings. Under perfect conditions one could conceivably have seven departments with chiefs of staff to take charge of them, the election agent reserving merely a supervisory and co-ordinating function for himself. In By-elections it is possible to departmentalise to some extent on these lines though never completely; but in General Elections the seven departments most frequently get rolled into one. But with some foresight and knowledge of the appropriate divisions of work, it is often possible to find clerks who can relieve the agent of most of the work in two or three at least of the departments named.

The Seven Classes.

It is convenient here to set out in the form of a table the various classifications or sides tn an election agent's work, under the seven headings referred to.

PRESS AND PUBLICITY.

Supervision of all printed matter of whatever kind; drafting of all leaflets, squibs, posters, etc.; editorship of News Sheet; issue of communications to the Press; facts and promptings for candidate; hints to speakers; control of newspaper advertising and billposting.

MEETINGS.

Control of public meetings throughout the Division; engagement of speakers; engagement of halls; supervision (in Boroughs) of stewarding, literature distribution at meetings, and collections at same.

TRANSPORT.

Providing vehicles for speakers and workers where necessary; providing vehicles for candidate's tours; securing vehicles voluntarily lent; making contracts for hired vehicles (subject to authority given); allotment of cars on polling day.

GENERAL ORGANISATION.

Control of canvass throughout the Division. Final control of local workers (whether County or Borough); organisation of canvass; obtaining reports of same; organisation of meetings for workers; control of all Committee Rooms; engagement of Committee Rooms; equipment of same; bill distribution; checking printing as received; distribution of literature to localities.

CLERICAL.

Writing-up envelopes, poll cards, etc.; all folding, collating, and inserting; duplicating; marking of registers from canvass; issue of stationery supplies; issue of polling 'day equipment for Committee Rooms.

FINANCE.

Control of all payments; issue of spending authority to sub-agents or clerks; account keeping; preparation of election return.

WOMEN.

Co-ordination of special women's efforts; providing women workers for all departments; special attention to women electors.

It will be seen that the functions outlined above cover every activity in an election. But the classification I have given must be read intelligently and with such adaptations as are necessary for different types of constituencies. An election agent must, whether he has persons who can take charge of departments or no, make himself familiar with the duties and working of each.

It must be recognised that every officer throughout the contest is responsible finally to the election agent. Even where a clerk is placed in charge of a department there must be close contact with the agent and no attempt to incur expense or issue public notices without the agent's authority.

THE TRANSPORT DEPT. AT AN ELECTION

[*Reprinted*]

The Transport Department is one of the vital parts of the election machine, not so much in compact County Boroughs as in more scattered Boroughs and County Divisions. Close touch with the Meetings Department is necessary and the two departments may very well be worked together where staff is short. The election agent who is working single-handed should devote a definite period of his time each morning to his transport problem. In this way he may probably save both money and muddle.

Leaving out of count the little Borough which has no real need of transport or even for cars on polling day, the general principles for this work are the same in all elections. A plan must be worked out by which speakers will get to meetings, Committee Rooms must be kept in touch with the centre, messengers must be conveyed, the candidate sent on his tours, and last, but not least, vehicles must be obtained for use in such services and for use on polling day.

The first function of the Transport Department is to exhaust the generosity of friends in promises of conveyances for use during the contest and on the day of the poll. It is a mistake to send out late in the contest begging for cars on polling day. The time to ask for cars is at the beginning of the contest, and people are to be found who will freely lend their car for an evening or two besides lending same on polling day. Others who think tenderly of their cars may be willing to go round with same a few nights on tours but unwilling to incur risks by using the car for fetching-up voters.

It is desirable then in the first instance to procure as many names of car owners as possible and send out asking for help. Personal letters are worth the time spent on them and far better than circulars. If not already done the local committees should be asked to secure offers of service as messengers by members owning motor bicycles or cycles. A corps of cyclists is a great advantage in ensuring quick communications between outlying Committees Rooms and the centre, conveyance of literature, canvass reports, and so forth.

If cars are to be hired it is worth while inserting a newspaper advertisement inviting service by car owners. I have received most excellent work from sympathisers with small cars willing to use them whole time during a contest at an inclusive fee. The ordinary taximan is an expensive customer, and cheaper arrangements are often possible.

Election plans must sometimes bow to the exigencies of transport, for if they are not costs will go up by leaps and bounds. The transport officer, if there should be one, should be well acquainted with the plans of each department and should know roughly each morning what are likely to be the demands upon him. Like the Treasury in H.M. Government it should not be

for him to just fulfil all demands, but he will point out where a car may be saved here or there, and where a bus or train journey should be undertaken instead.

"Transport" may practically have finished his duties on the eve of the poll, but if there are any cars available he still has a function to perform on polling day, and if there be many cars his work is not easy. It is rarely that Local Committees who have secured a car or two can fall in with the team ideas of the centre where naturally the desire is to use cars for the best advantage throughout the Division. Anything more than a dozen cars really requires an officer at the centre to ensure their best working throughout the day. A car may frequently work during the daytime in an area where it would be unprofitable to remain at night. The centre should be able to direct the car to the most productive area at various times of the day; rests and meal times should be insisted upon and efforts reserved for the big rush at night.

ADDITIONAL CANDIDATURES ENDORSED BY N.E.C. 27th JULY, 1938.

BUCKS.: Aylesbury. Mr. REG. GROVES, 3, Gateside Road, London, S.W.17.

CHES.: Birkenhead, West. Mr. R. MOELWYN HUGHES, 18, Freeland Road, Ealing, W.5.

Stockport. Mr. HENRY INGLE, 31, Heaton Street, Hr. Broughton, Salford, 7, Lancs.

LONDON: North Battersea. Mr. F. C. R. DOUGLAS, 8, Cambridge Road, S.W.11.

MIDDX.: Ealing. Mr. D. J. JOHNSTON, 38, Milton Road, Hanwell, W.7.

NORFOLK: South. Mr. C. P. MAYHEW, Felthorpe Hall, Norfolk.

WESTMORLAND: Mr. R. S. ARMSTRONG, 14, Solway View, Whitehaven.

WILTS.: Westbury. Mr. GEORGE WARD, 3, Addison Road, Melksham, Wilts.

CO-OPERATIVE CANDIDATE ENDORSED.

RENFREWSHIRE: East. Miss HELIB T. LOW, 53, Croftburn Drive, King's Park, Glasgow.

WITHDRAWAL OF CANDIDATURE.

DEVON: Exeter. Mr. JOHN CRIPPS.

GINGERING UP MEETINGS

A daily round of Labour Parties, and experience of their working, convinces us of the necessity for improvements in many directions not least in that of punctuality. On numberless occasions we have risked the attention of the police in hurrying pell-mell to a meeting timed for a certain hour only to find no one in attendance. Starts half an hour late are a fairly common experience. On the other hand there are Parties which, when they begin their business, never seem to know when to stop.

Bad chairmanship is another common fault. There is one kind of delegate who will talk for ever and a day if he gets the chance, and there are some kinds of chairmen who have an obsession about "stifling discussion" and never seem able to put a question to a meeting without some qualms of conscience. It is not necessary to halt and ask on every matter whether there is any amendment, nor is it incumbent on a chairman to note the incessant talker every time he gets up to speak.

On occasions we have been bored stiff with the long-drawn-out nature of trivial discussions, and if this is how it affects the enthusiast, what must be the impression on fresh members who attend for the first time? We protest too against the unreasonable hour for many meetings. There are some Parties who claim that they cannot get a business meeting except on Sundays. While we believe there is truth in this in a few areas, we think that in many places the statement is a fiction. Sunday business meetings definitely keep some people away. Again, earlier hours for meeting are surely possible in many places. In most places, if the attempt were made, meetings could begin at 7.30 p.m. or 7 p.m. instead of 8 o'clock. It is perhaps the fear that meetings would still drag on till 10.30 p.m. that prevents the change.

It is not right to keep fathers and mothers of small children out to this hour, and an earlier beginning and better chairmanship should result in bigger attendances. The lesson so many Labour people have to learn is to do more and talk less. And we shall not even be sorry if somebody feels offended because we have said this!

[Reprinted]

LABOUR PARTY DIRECTORY OF DIVISIONAL SECRETARIES

MONTHLY LIST OF CORRECTIONS AND ALTERED ADDRESSES

Index No.	*Description*	*Name of Organisation*	*Present Secretary and Address*
B34	CD	Whitehaven D.L.P.	Mr. T. J. MULLINDER, Oddfellows Hall, Egremont, Cumberland.
F45	SB	Exeter D.L.P.	Mr. G. TREVELYAN, 31, Catherine Street, Exeter.
A64	SB	Stockton D.L.P.	Mr. M. SUTHERLAND, Labour Hall, Corporation Street, Stockton-on-Tees.
A66	CD	Barnard Castle D.L.P.	Mr. J. ROBERTSHAW, 8, The Crescent, Langley Park, Co. Durham.
C106	CD	Stroud D.L.P.	Mr. E. FLETCHER, Far Hill, Cainscross Road, Stroud, Glos.
D131	BD	Chatham D.L.P.	Mr. C. A. WHITTINGHAM, 23, Herman Terrace, Chatham, Kent.
D135A	CD	Chislehurst D.L.P.	Mr. W. J. TARRY, "Garden Villa," Derry Downs, St. Mary Cray, Kent.
B184	DB	Salford West D.L.P.	Mrs. L. FANELLE, 4, Wychbury Street, Seedley, Salford, 6.
B197	CD	Middleton & Prestwich Div. T.C. & L.P.	Mr. W. GREGORY, 66, Kenyon Lane, Middleton, Manchester.
C207	BD	Leicester South D.L.P.	Mr. H. W. BOWDEN, 412, Saffron Lane, Leicester.
E235	SB	Finsbury D.L.P.	Coun. Miss E. M. KELLY, 23, Greenaway House, Margery Street, London, W.C.1.
E236/7	DB	Fulham Boro' L.P.	Mr. A. F. COOMBER, 20, Musgrave Crescent, London, S.W.6.
E245	SB	Holborn Labour Party	Mrs. E. TOWNDROW, 32, Millman Street, London, W.C.1.
E249	BD	Islington West D.L.P.	Mr. A. COSTEN, 318, Caledonian Road, London, N.1.
A312	SB	Morpeth D.L.P.	Mr. J. ARRIES, Bridge Cottage, East Sleekburn, Bedlington Station, Northumberland.
C325	BD	Nottingham West D.L.P.	Coun. G. A. GOODALL, 218, Mansfield Road, Nottingham.
D388	CD	Chester D.L.P.	Mr. H. R. NICHOLLS, 121, Beaconsfield Road, Littlehampton, Sussex.
A437/8	DB	Middlesbrough Central L.P.	Mr. E. JOHNSON, 32, North Ormesby Road, Middlesbrough, Yorks.
J518	CD	Kilmarnock D.L.P.	Mr. T. HANNAN, 6, Bentinet Street, Kilmarnock, Ayrs.

CORRECTIONS TO ANNUAL REPORT ALREADY PUBLISHED

December issue :—2, 5, 15, 26, 33, 38, 47, 53, 62, 127, 140, 159, 167, 231, 232, 239/41, 245, 249, 258, 262, 268, 294, 299, 303, 331, 378, 390, 394, 396, 423, 446, 476, 480, 481, 540.
January issue :—5, 9, 22, 45, 65, 263/5, 280, 305, 372, 375, 413, 440, 470.
February issue :—16, 26, 46, 53, 65, 89 124, 127, 167, 175, 178, 258/9, 263, 274/8, 293, 299, 306, 352, 413, 487, 538.
March issue :—3, 9, 44, 70, 118, 143, 155, 160, 162, 171, 213, 224/5, 242/3, 278, 300, 340, 346, 378, 388, 403, 404, 420/3, 422, 423, 437/8, 450, 484, 511, 530, 575.
April issue :—1, 2, 5, 29, 89, 129, 236, 242, 249, 259, 283, 285, 333, 335, 380, 392, 432, 553, 570.

May Issue :—3, 12, 17, 37, 50, 60, 70, 76, 80 81, 87, 116, 126, 138, 140, 141, 142, 152 166, 174, 187, 222 3, 224/5, 232, 239/41, 243, 245, 258/9, 258, 263/5, 265, 267, 267/9 277, 290, 293, 297, 307, 313, 322, 350, 368, 372, 383, 403, 426, 427/30, 428, 440, 445 471, 476, 486, 551, 570.
July Issue :—37, 45, 76, 113, 126, 159, 185, 205, 331, 398, 420, 477, 485, 566.

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ADVICE TO SECRETARIES

In the course of time Labour Offices accumulate a large stock of blocks of different kinds, and these are not always stored away in such manner as to be readily accessible when required ; in such cases their existence gets forgotten altogether. We have found the best device is an ordinary scrap-book into which is pasted an illustration of each block with a number against the illustration. The blocks are similarly numbered and stored away in numerical order. An index soon becomes necessary and is a simple matter to compile.

In a good many offices it is desired to keep copies of certain magazines and newspapers for reference purposes. Magazines, of course, can be put away on shelves, but the keeping of newspapers is often done in an unsatisfactory way. To fold the papers and stack them in a corner is to store up trouble for the time when a particular copy is required for reference. Much the better way is to procure a strip of wood about 2 inches wide and half inch thick and some 4 inches longer than the paper which is required to be kept. Strongly tack to the back of the wood a strawboard of same width and 2 inches deeper than the paper. Four holes should now be bored in the wood in pairs at convenient places. Through these holes pass a pair of leather laces. The file is now laid flat on the table and the laces threaded through the back and through the paper to be filed. Tie the lace in front. For wall use two hooks may be fastened to the board to hang on nails, but it is then advisable to add another sheet of strawboard of the same size to cover up the front. If desired the papers can be kept dustproof by fastening a flap of American cloth to the board.

A secretary asks us for advice concerning duplicate books for correspondence. His predecessor has used printed and bound books of letter-heads, interleaved with blank sheets for carboned copies, and our correspondent who is unused to office matters asks for some guidance as to a better system. We should like to have seen the books referred to, but generally speaking we have a poor opinion of this method of writing letters, and copying correspondence, even if only a few letters are sent out. The use of duplicate books applies only to handwritten letters, and to get the best results the letter heading should be on bank paper and the books should be well supplied with the right kind of pen carbon paper. We have seen books where the top sheet was of ordinary cream laid paper, making it impossible for carboned copies to show through unless pencil was used. A pencilled letter is an offence to the recipient and should not be used. Sometimes the book is used the other way about with the thin sheet on top, the carboned copy being the one torn out and sent to the recipient. One hardly knows which system is the worst. If duplicate books are used at all it is advisable to order them with the interleaving sheets also perforated, as then the carboned copies can be detached and placed with their kindred correspondence and so used as necessity arises or filed away in folders.

[*Reprinted*]

CORRESPONDENCE

To the Editor.

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE ALLOWANCES.

Dear Comrade,

I am anxious to learn the amounts payable by those Public Assistance Committees which have a fixed scale allowance, details of income ignored and so on.

In Derbyshire there is no fixed scale, but the allowance would appear to be commensurate with one of nine shillings a person.

If any of your readers from other counties could favour me with details of the arrangements in their areas I should be very grateful.

With thanks in anticipation.

Yours Sincerely,
J. W. FRENCH.

26, Mornington Road,
Holmewood, Chesterfield.

To the Editor.

PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION.

Dear Comrade,

As one of the six counters (three of whom had had no previous experience of any P.R. counting) engaged on the recent N.U.C. Elections let me say *vide* "Some Notes and Comments" (on p.132), that to get the results of all the eight elections given in the official return, from which you draw your references, from start to finish took less than eight hours, so none of the candidates, counters or Conference delegates had any occasion to suffer from heart or brain attacks.

The necessity for 11 counts in the election of the two Auditors is evidence not of any difficulty or undue time in arriving at the result, but of the very keen competition for these two vacancies, as is clearly shown by the published figures. (The same applies to the other Elections where somewhat extended counts were required.) All the 11 Auditor counts were, of course, carried out on the completion by each delegate of one ballot paper only for that particular election.

With P.R., the N.U.C. for years has made it the practice for each delegate to complete all his/her ballot papers for all elections at the one voting session, of from 15 to 30 minutes, thereafter leaving Conference free to concentrate on its other business—a very great advantage which only P.R. secures, over the divided attention of delegates and the interruption of business which many of us have found such disturbing features of those Conferences where the "Exhaustive Vote" or "Second Ballot" methods still obtain. Certainly, after 25 years' continuous experience, the N.U.C. has no desire to give up P.R.

I regret the anti-P.R. bias your paragraph shows: personally, I feel it would be a good thing all round if the "Labour Organiser" and the Movement generally were to give earnest consideration to the truly democratic and highly instructive results P.R. has consistently secured in the Eire elections and elsewhere.

Yours fraternally,

JOHN FITZGERALD.

While we value the opinion of our valuable correspondent we feel compelled to reiterate our view that P.R. would do no more for our Party than to rob it of the fruits of future victory. —Ed. "L.O."

(*Concluded from page* 164)

Newspapers, Printers and Reading Rooms Repeal Act, 1869, that:—

> "Every person who shall print any paper or book meant to be published or dispersed, and who shall not print upon the front of every such paper, if printed on one side only, or upon the first or last leaf of every paper or book consisting of more than one leaf in legible characters, his name and usual place of abode or business; shall be liable for a penalty of £5 for every copy of such paper."

ELECTION ENVELOPES.

Our readers will be very interested in the announcement of the South London Envelope Co., Ltd., which appears on second page of cover.

Readers have the assurance also that these envelopes are made under the terms and conditions of the Trade Union of Paper Workers. This is an important point and one which will give satisfaction to all concerned.

[*Reprinted*]

MINUTES AND MINUTE-TAKING

It would be an untrue claim to say that the minuting of Local Labour Party meetings is well done. There is less to complain of concerning the minutes of the larger Parties, and in some cases we have come across minutes exceptionally well kept. But bad minuting is common among the smaller organisations, and particularly among the lesser, but nevertheless important, minor bodies, such as Ward Committees and Sub-Committees.

We once knew a Divisional Secretary whose record of proceedings given to the next meeting consisted of a purely verbal account given from a few rough notes he had made. There are actually no minutes of this Party for the first two years of its existence. This is an exceptional case, but we fear minutes are sometimes entirely absent in certain organisations, which, because of bad organisation, only meet occasionally. And there is, beyond this, a fairly widespread unsatisfactoriness about such minutes as are recorded. Some have been very highly coloured, descriptive reports of scenes which would do credit to a yellow press reporter. They have reported accurately perhaps, the "heat engendered" the "animated discussions," that "several members addressed the chair at the same time," and even in one case the Chairman lost his temper. All of which would be better left unsaid. These delightfully naïve narratives are to be compared with others that are bald records which omit mention of the attendance, the Chairman, the place of meeting, perhaps also the date, and some of the business done.

Perhaps it is not to be expected that in a Movement where enthusiasm and energy count for more than mere clerical ability there should be these shortcomings. But the object of this article is to give some hints to those who need them, and to lay down, at any rate, some few general principles for the use of minute-takers.

We, however, recognise that there must be a sense of proportion even in this matter. Large and important gatherings and organisations require detailed minutes and specific records of every item which comes up for discussion or decision. Though theoretically this is equally true of smaller and less important bodies, practice and commonsense will allow of a lesser elaboration and a curtailed account so long as all business done is faithfully recorded. It is absurd to impose elaboration on more or less untutored local secretaries, though we shall be the last to attempt to say for which case one could prescribe a simpler minuting; the aim should always be to get the best consonant with the real requirements of the Party.

Accuracy, we are afraid, is frequently made difficult owing to the fact that the normal rules of debate and conduct of meetings are so often ignored. To use the Postmaster-General's simile, it would be regarded almost as a convulsion of nature in some meetings if the mover of a resolution or amendment reduced it to writing and sent it up to be accurately minuted. A lot of this is due to downright bad Chairmanship, and it is unfair to blame the minute-taker for getting a resolution wrongly recorded when no written resolution was before the meeting, and when, probably the sense of same was only vaguely expressed by the Chairman in taking the vote.

Too often, also, Secretaries are overburdened at meetings, being expected to take the minutes, deal with business, handle credentials and take subscriptions, etc., all single-handed. There should be a devolution of these functions at least at important meetings, and a special minute-taker with some aptitude for the job is invariably an advantage. Members should object, too, if ill-understood resolutions or amendments are put from the Chair.

Any resolution which is not a mere motion for adjournment, acceptance, or of similar simplicity should be in writing.

It is not our intention here to dissert on the general conduct of meetings, the duties of Chairman and the rules of debate, but it is necessary to get one or two points clear, for they are essential to good minuting.

In the first place an Agenda should be prepared for every meeting, and the order of the business would be the order in which the items to be considered appear upon the agenda. The following is a specimen agenda for a divisional meeting.

AGENDA OF D.L.P. GENERAL MEETING, 1st NOVEMBER, 193—

1. To read and confirm Minutes of last meeting.
2. Report of Executive Committee.
3. Other Reports—
   a. Report of delegate to Labour Party Conference.
   b. Report of Social Committee.
   c. Report of Financial Secretary.
4. Reports from Local Labour Parties and Polling District Committees.
5. Notice of motion from A. Wiseman as follows:—
   "That this Party purchases 24 copies per month of the 'Labour Organiser' to be charged to general funds and supplied to the members of the Executive Committee."
6. Correspondence.
   (a) Letter from National Labour Party offering the services of National Propagandist week commencing December 15th.
   (b) Letter from Clerk to County Council acknowledging representations re insufficient Polling Districts Mudborough Area.
   (c) Letter from Lord Chancellor re Labour members of Advisory Committee re Magistrates.
7. Short speech from Mr. L. Abour, M.P.
8. Date of next meeting.

What will strike most secretaries is that the above agenda differs materially from that to which they are accustomed, but it is in the right order, and by following it the meeting will have before them all that was done at the last meeting, and the reports of its officers and its subsidiary organisations before it comes to the consideration of any special business such as the notice of motion or correspondence.

Note, too, that correspondence is detailed, and obviously there has been weeding out so that only correspondence affecting the meeting comes before it. We have frequently attended meetings where the Secretary has arrived laden with correspondence of all kinds, important and unimportant, routine and special, and it has taken the best part of the evening to wade through it; on other occasions there have been a few mumbled words from the Secretary barely outlining what items consisted of, and that would be the last ever heard of them. All too often important correspondence from the Labour Party is slurred over in this manner, and the members know nothing about it. **Whatever correspondence is mentioned to a meeting should find mention in the minutes.**

Here let us interpose our view that it is the Executive's business, or the Chairman's business at an Executive meeting to weed out unnecessary and routine correspondence and to master the remainder so that really understandable summaries can be given to the meeting. It is not good enough to say "This is a circular from so and so," and proceed to pass it over.

Our next point is that as every item of business is considered, a motion is required to deal with it, **and this motion with the names of the movers and seconders should appear in the minutes.** (Note, at Executive Meetings seconders are not required for motions unless Standing Orders say otherwise.)

It has been said also that the names and numbers of those voting should be recorded in the minutes. As a generalisation we do not concur with this, and it would be a futile waste of time and trouble in most cases. But if a vote is taken it is desirable to state the numbers as announced by the Chairman. The fact that a resolution was only carried by a majority is ofttimes an important factor of which the records should tell.

As to the method of keeping the Minutes, this will vary according to the resources of the Secretary, and the nature of the organisations. A "minute book" is a time-honoured institution, but it is a tiresome job to write many pages of minutes in long

hand, and many secretaries now adopt the loose-leaf system which enables minutes to be typed. Where this is done it is often customary to carbon copy or duplicate the minutes, if the number of those whom they concern is small, and such duplicates are circulated prior to the next meeting. Where this is done there is a considerable saving of time in reading the minutes, and there is also better opportunity for the minutes to be studied as to their accuracy. Printed minutes are customary with public bodies, but this is too expensive for our Movement.

It must be remembered that the minutes of a meeting are ordinarily conclusive evidence of what has taken place (though they are not exclusive evidence, of course) and once they have been signed by the Chairman as accurate on the voting of a meeting, their contents will be very difficult to challenge. Secretaries, therefore, should be scrupulously careful of their accuracy, and equally those in whose hearing the minutes are read should be prepared immediately to offer correction for any inaccuracy.

Minute-takers should supply themselves prior to the meeting with a suitable note-book or material for taking notes. Obviously comments on the margin of an agenda paper are rarely sufficient, and there is not room for points of order and unexpected motions. The notes should be dated at the head and be kept till at least the next meeting is over and the minutes have been adopted. The minute-taker's notes are sometimes of great importance as evidence when a dispute takes place.

In taking down the minutes, the minute-taker should grasp that the essential thing required is a definite record of **what the meeting did;** what speakers said is of relatively little importance, except in the case of the Chairman, and if the latter is called on to give a ruling on a point of order, the point of order and the Chairman's ruling should in normal circumstances appear in the minutes.

NEXT MONTH

"The Municipal Elections" and other special features.

[*Reprinted*]

WHO SACRIFICES?

One hears sometimes of "sacrifice for the movement," but rarely, if ever, is sacrifice specified and identified as it ought to be. Who sacrifices? and when? The pioneers certainly sacrificed not only time and money and energy, but also the respect and regard of their fellows. Contumely and persecution were often theirs, and even today there are those whose sacrifice consists in bearing their undue share of like evils. Labour men and women today mostly make their sacrifice in time and money devoted to the cause and in services unstintingly rendered. The not numerous paid servants of the Movement rarely lag behind in sacrifice, for though a living is theirs, long hours and other hardships often entail a considerable foregoing of life's ordinary pleasures; and the casualties by way of ill-health, and even death, sometimes tell their own story.

Is the spirit of sacrifice diminishing? We think not: but few notice when the many act alike. Perhaps today the most phenomenal and significant sacrifice is that which is gradually winning the County Divisions for Labour. How often is it realised that a County Divisional meeting, Executive or general, frequently involves not only loss of time but a journey at the personal expense of each member of anything up to thirty and thirty-five miles, plus meals. Almost every week some illustration of this wide-spread sacrifice in our poorer districts comes to our notice. If no other record marks this wonderful present-day evidence that to-day's generation have not lost the spirit of their fathers, we at least are proud to note it and—it matters much!

South Kensington, near Earl's Court station. Comfortably furnished Divan-sitting rooms from 17/6 a week. Double rooms from 30/- a week. Breakfasts if required. Also Nightly Terms. Hot water in rooms. Quiet house. Garden. S. John Gee, 99, Lexham Gardens, W.8. 'Phone WES 6442.

SOME QUESTIONS RE-ANSWERED

Motor for Advertising Purposes.

QUESTION. Would you be so kind as to let me know as to whether we shall be in order if during our immediate campaign we cover our Party motor car with Labour slogans, provided we do not make a direct appeal to support the Labour candidate. I presume a poster with the words "Vote for Smith, the Prospective Candidate" would be deemed to be a beginning of the contest, but that a slogan "Labour Stands for Peace and Prosperity" would not be so? Before we get these posters planned we want to be sure we are not involving ourselves in any way.

ANSWER. Our friends must avoid issuing posters asking electors to vote for their candidate. There is, however, nothing at all improper in plastering the car with purely Labour slogans, except perhaps consideration for the car itself. We should imagine that well-chosen slogans effectively printed would help to rouse and encourage.

In some towns bye-laws exist which prohibit the use of vehicles mainly for advertising purposes. These bye-laws are not likely to exist in rural areas, and it is doubtful if a car with two or three placards upon it would come within the prohibition. The bye-laws mentioned have been principally directed against the obstruction of traffic by vehicles solely intended for advertising and specially constructed for the display of posters.

Printer's Imprint.

QUESTION.—Will you please acquaint me in your valuable paper whether the printer's imprint must go on the election literature published in connection with the R.D.C. elections? I am not sure about this and there is another point in this matter I would like enlightenment on. We frequently issue leaflets during the year and active propaganda matter. I have read somewhere that people can be prosecuted unless there is a printer's imprint on everything published. I often see that this law is not observed, but I should like to be on the right side and know what the position really is.

ANSWER.—Yes, the printer's imprint must go on every "bill, placard or poster" having reference to a Local Government Election, to which the Municipal Elections Corrupt and Illegal Practices Act, 1884, applies. The name and address of the printer *and* publisher is required, and any person printing, publishing, or posting, or causing to be printed, published, or posted any bill, poster or placard without the required imprint is liable to a fine of £100. If the candidate is himself guilty his act constitutes an illegal practice which, in addition to the fine, may involve him in the loss of his seat and a period of incapacity. It will be noted that not every election document must bear the imprint. The law merely strikes at what may be disseminated and at providing a means by which the disseminator of wrongful statements can be traced. Canvass cards, letter headings and such stationery do not require an imprint, though if the letter headings are used for circulars the documents would then probably become "bills" and the imprint would be wanted. The safer thing with all election literature is to see that the imprint appears on everything.

As to the other part of our correspondent's query, it is enacted by the

(*Please turn to page* 160)

[*Reprinted*]

THE PROBLEM IN MINING DIVISIONS

Mining Constituencies.

Undoubtedly the biggest single electoral influence contributing to Labour's total at the polls is the miners' vote. Probably one-sixth of the votes cast for Labour candidates at the General Election were those of miners and their families ; and "mining constituencies" outnumber considerably the members officially labelled miners' representatives in the present House of Commons.

The miners' vote is solid.

And yet there are two unsatisfactory features in most of these constituencies. In the first place, political, or rather Party, machinery is often of the poorest, or even absent altogether, and secondly, individual membership of a good and paying sort is most frequently conspicuous by its absence. These are not mere generalities but assertions based on fact.

The reason for this state of things is not hard to seek. The miners' vote is to be found generally closely packed in well-defined areas. Where the industry exists it is generally the predominating one. And in all areas, and in some areas for a very long time, the miners realise as a mass what they want, and they move as a mass towards it. They have learned to trust and to use their industrial machine, and in moving politically they little reck that a political direction and a political machine is necessary in addition.

In tackling this problem the utmost tact and discretion is necessary. Not since the days of Chartism has there been so deep a feeling of rebellion in the breasts of any body of British workers than has rested with the miners in recent years. The industrial machine has been under enemy fire and the losses have been great ; the miner does not readily see that the industrial machine which has been everything in the fight, and has represented all his economic and political hopes in the past, must be helped in its political contests by a machine specially created for that work. We have heard it asked with some force what more is needed in an area where the Parliamentary seat, and practically every Local Government office is already held by Labour representatives. What need of a political machine to accomplish that which is already done ? It is the answer to this question which political organisers must supply.

The miners' attitude here discussed entirely overlooks one or two aspects of the question. In the first place the function of a political organisation is not wholly that of conducting elections. This is first and foremost a propagandist and educational function. This we contend the Miners' Lodges cannot and do not fulfil ; it is not their forte. The advancement of a Party's Cause, an explanation of its policies, and rebuttment of enemy criticisms, is primarily a matter for an organisation which it is wholly political. And these functions entail labours that are entirely outside the function of a Trades Union Branch, i.e., organisation of canvasses, political meetings, the circulation of literature, registration, and so forth. Political education is a necessity even in an area that is ninety per cent. our own.

But there is another reason why we should press on for the development of Local Labour Parties working according to Party rules in these mining areas. The Miners' Lodges do not represent after all even a bare majority of the electors in any area, in the country. What of the women ? And what of the rest of the population and the numbers of other Trades Unions, who, if small in number, are to be found in every mining area ? Hard, though it may be to bring these facts home to the individual miner, and to get him to realise the need for sacrifice and work in a political Party, the one unchallengeable argument he cannot beat is the fact that this is the only way in which the women and the majority of electors can politically function. It is at any rate the only democratic way.

The next problem of the mining constituencies and closely allied with that

above is the difficulty of building individual membership in these places. Most of the causes are connected with the problems we have just discussed. It is the very fact that political success has already been attained which militates against the machine yielding what it ought to.

Poverty is sometimes claimed as a bar to the extension of membership. But giving this factor due weight one is compelled to reflect that almost everywhere there still remains a huge proportion of the Labour vote which could pay regular contributions for the maintenance of a political machine.

To get a correct perspective of this question one must consider the national aspect of it. There is a margin of between five and six million persons between the membership of the Labour Party and the vote it attains. If this margin is to be bridged by individual membership—and real democracy demands that it should be—the task is rendered ever so much more difficult if in constituencies representing a sixth of the total, the locals are satisfied with success in the electoral field and decline to proceed any further. It is short-sighted policy too because politically the miners have shot their bolt. There are no more worlds (constituencies) for them to conquer, but before Labour gets its majority many seats must be won. Actually, individual membership if obtained in mining constituencies, proportionate to our Party's strength would add (because of its affiliation fees to Headquarters) considerably to the prospects of making gains elsewhere. Thus in helping themselves the mining constituencies could help others.

(*Concluded from opposite page*)

And why have we told this story? It is because there are Labour Parties who are like the man who sat in his shop. They, too, sit in the shop and the streets upon streets of workers' houses near to their headquarters are left cold. They do not send their representatives to canvass; they do not advertise; they do not distribute literature. And so like the man who sat in his shop, trade is bad and the people do not know them.

Thank goodness, there are other Labour Parties like the man who did not sit in his shop. There are they who send out canvassers; who advertise; who distribute literature; these are the ones who will give us Victory.

JACK CAPE

An Appreciation by JACK CUTTER

I have a sense of desolation at the news of the passing of my old friend Jack Cape, for, though we only met at Annual Conference these last few years, he seemed as close a friend and as good and loyal a comrade as in the old days when we met nearly every week. Indeed, it was to me one of the high lights of every Conference that we should meet again and I would once more enjoy his cheery personality.

There are many kindly and warm-hearted people in County Durham, but surely none more so than Jack. I was a raw young Agent on his first assignment when I first met him. His welcome to the North-East Agents' Group was real and sincere. He had the gift of making one feel a member of a really good team with a standard to maintain and an ever-present spirit of loyalty to every colleague in the district. It was always a joy to be in his company.

Jack's smile and kindliness conquered where many a supposedly stronger method would have failed. Do you remember our own Annual Conference a year or two ago when Jack presided? Who else but he could so flagrantly ignore the rules of debate dismissing them when challenged with a casual: "Never mind what the rules of debate say. My ruling is that we take the vote"? No one in the Union's membership could have got away with it, but even the staunchest stickler for punctilio was silenced by Jack's grin.

Durham will miss him, for he was a power in the County's local government. The miners of Spennymoor Division will miss him, for he was a trusted friend who never let them down. The Labour Movement will miss him as we always miss those rare people who get things done by the sheer force of their personalities. The Union will miss him for he was a painstaking official and a true colleague. Others, like myself, in all parts of the land will miss him as sorely, for his friendship was a treasured thing.

Good old Jack!

[*Reprinted*]

A Story with a Moral

THE MAN WHO SAT IN HIS SHOP

Once upon a time a man opened a shop. This man was a tailor. He was a good tailor, and had worked many years at his trade before venturing to set up in business for himself.

The shop the tailor opened was a very nice shop. His cut and his cloth were both good. The tailor was a civil man, and his prices were reasonable. His shop was in a main street and many men passed by who needed clothes, and what perhaps was more surprising in these days possessed the money with which to pay for them.

And so the tailor with the nice shop in the main street, and who was a civil man offering good cut and good cloth at reasonable prices, opened his shop and expected to do well. He sat in his shop and waited for custom.

Several days passed and the tailor still sat in his shop. As he peeped through the rolls of cloth at the hurrying crowd in the main street he wondered why so few cast curious eyes upon his wares. He wondered still more that only one or two people had come in his shop and these not to buy.

But he was a tailor who could give good cut and good cloth. He was a civil man and his prices were reasonable; so unthinking of failure, confidence swelled within him. He went and he sat in his shop.

A week went by and the tailor still sat in his shop. As yet he had done no trade, but he was a good tailor who gave good cut and good cloth. He was a civil man and his prices were reasonable, and so for a second week he sat in his shop and waited for custom.

The third week still found the tailor sitting in his shop. He had done a little trade and he had given good value. He had given good cut and he had given good cloth, and being a civil man he had been civil accordingly and his prices had been reasonable. So he was satisfied trade would come to him. And he still sat in the shop.

Faith is a virtue. Nay, it is more; it is one of the Three Graces. Patience is another virtue, and far be it from us to suggest that in a tailor Civility is not another virtue, and Reasonable Prices yet another. It is a virtue in a tailor also to give Good Cut; it is a virtue that he gives Good Cloth. But a month had gone by and the tailor still sat in his shop.

Now a month is a long time to sit in the shop. Two months is twice as long, but at the end of that time the tailor still sat in his shop. Across the way was another tailor and in and out the door all day long men and youths passed and repassed. This tailor was perhaps not so good a tailor. Both his cut and his cloth were inferior to that of the tailor who sat in his shop. And as for civility, well he was brusque, for he was a busy man and customers were waiting to be served. But the tailor who sat in his shop never knew the secret of the other man's success, so he sat in his shop till three months went by. He was tired of idleness; the wholesalers were tired of waiting for their money; so he sold the shop and went back to his trade.

That is the whole of the story of the man who sat in his shop.

But you ask why the other man succeeded so well? Ah, that's the little secret. Away behind the main street there lay streets upon streets of working class houses; and the tailor who did trade did not sit in his shop. He sent people to call on the workers who lived in the streets upon streets behind the main street. He advertised, and he circulated literature. The people got to know him, they knew the tailor whose representatives called at their homes; and they knew the man whose messages they read week after week. But they did not know the tailor who was a civil man, who gave good cut and good cloth at reasonable prices, but who just sat in his shop.

(*Concluded on opposite page*)

REGISTRATION

Some Hints on Marking Registers.

As we have before advised, registration work is really an all-the-year-round, daily, or, at least, weekly, task for somebody or other in every Division. Immediately a register is published it should be made the medium for recording alterations that will be needed in the next register. We are afraid that as a rule registration work is nearly always crowded into the last few weeks and the result is bound to be that many claims that might have been made remain undiscovered while other persons are allowed to get "on" the register or remain there who ought to be "off."

For full-time agents the motto should be "An hour a day with the register"; and where no full-time officer is employed as much attention should be given to the matter as is possible, and certainly the work should be spread out over the whole year.

In our opinion no active officer can be moving about his Division without almost daily discovering persons or information to be checked with the register. Each day there are new members to enter in a Division which is seriously engaged in a big membership campaign. Each day also the Death's column in the local newspapers conveys some information. The Party's social activities constantly bring the officers in touch with fresh people apart altogether from canvasses and so forth. In fact, a live officer discovers dozens of ways in which his register can be checked and newly-qualified or disqualified persons discovered. We knew one man in whose district personation was a common practice, who regularly studied the Police Court reports and marked up the compulsory "can't votes"!

In only a few constituencies have we discovered good systems in operation for marking the register. In some cases the register is merely checked to see if a person is "on" or "off," and if a claim is to be made the person's name is filed away in some list; if the person is to come "off" the name goes into another list. This may be a ready and serviceable system and anyway it is miles ahead of the practice of those agents who merely collect registration information in a promiscuous manner in a box file.

But the best and most consistent plan for dealing with registration is to mark all changes in the register itself. When this is attempted one soon discovers that the close printing of registers is an inconvenience and there is not sufficient marginal space. The older plan was to send a register to the printers to be interleaved with blank paper. Every page of the register then had a blank page opposite same for use in making changes.

Registers are of course, now obtainable printed on one side only and interleaving is therefore less practised. Some officers, however, still find insufficient room for the entries they desire to make, and a good practice in these cases is to detach the leaves of the register and paste each leaf separately on a quarto page which might be punched at the left-hand side for use in a loose-leaf binder. The more elaborate plan is both to paste and interleave. This provides ample room for recording considerable changes in the register while the sheets on which the pages are pasted can be down-ruled on a duplicator for the purpose of providing columns in which "marks" are made indicating the politics and personal matter concerning electors.

We know some painstaking agents who have gone to the trouble of detaching all the sheets of their registers and passing them through the duplicator for the purpose of obtaining cross lines on the blank back of the sheets. These lines are, of course, spaced to exactly the spacing of the printing lines, and when the register is put together again each elector's name has a line exactly opposite. Unskilled helpers are then sometimes set to work to number each page so ruled with the numbers of the electors opposite whose names the lines should fall.

TYPEWRITERS
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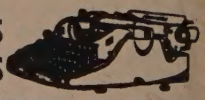

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